



THE BECKHAM OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG

APRIL 2024

P.O. BOX 5301 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40255-0301

Turn Your Backyard into a Wildlife Haven- April's Presentation

Anne Cabaniss, recently retired RN, has been a member of the BBC since 1993. In 1999, she purchased a modest home on $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in urban New Albany. Since that time, she has worked hard to make her little corner of the world a wildlife haven, in spite of it being surrounded by an urban environment of busy roads, strip malls, schools and factories. There have been over 70 bird species counted since 1999, including a Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Scarlet Tanager. Moving water really attracts a lot of migratory birds, as do heated birdbaths in winter. Ponds promote toad reproduction. There has been a population explosion of toads on Hedden Ct since the neighborhood has added backyard ponds. Milkweed attracts monarch butterflies; fennel and parsley attract swallowtails. Holly trees feed hungry robins in winter. Salvia brings in honey bees that have a hive a mile away. Pines, tangles, thickets protect birds from hawks and are favored by skulking birds such as thrushes and sparrows. Anne is not afraid to be THAT neighborhood curmudgeon that insists neighbors keep their cats inside!



Anne Cabaniss



Her backyard in 1999



Backyard in 2023

Our meeting is on Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2822 Frankfort Ave, Louisville, KY 40206, 38.254256, - 85.689458. St. Mark's is at the corner of Frankfort Avenue and Kennedy Ave. Please enter by way of the back door near the parking lot.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The field trip schedule for April, May and June is included in this newsletter for those receiving it by mail. For those receiving by email there will be a link and it is also available on the BBC web page. **Please read the guidelines for our field trips before coming on one.** A big thank you to all the leaders for volunteering to lead a trip.



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REMINDER: Bring your bug spray. Ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes are waiting for you. Always check the morning of the field trip in case there is any change in time, place or if it is cancelled.



2024 Birdathon

Each year Beckham Bird Club supports different organizations that in turn support birds in many ways. This year the BBC board has selected the following organizations to receive grants through our annual Birdathon. This year was an exceptional year in that we almost doubled the request for grants. Last year 8 organizations ask for help, this year there were 15. With that many groups we will need to double our efforts if we want to give everyone the amount that they asked for. So we hope you will be generous with your contributions this year. Listed below are the organizations asking for money but for a complete description of these projects, is available with this link <http://www.beckhambirdclub.org/birdathon.html>.

How does the Birdathon work? Several members of BBC will be emailing or calling you to ask that you support this effort to raise money. You will be asked to pledge a set amount or an amount for each bird that is seen by the person you sponsor. After the Birdathon usually done on one day during the first week of May the person to whom you pledged will contact you. The person will send you a description of their day and tell you how to complete your pledge. Only after the Birdathon do you send money to cover your pledge. **Please support the 2024 BBC Birdathon.**

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest

Creasy Mahan Nature Preserve

Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

Jefferson Memorial Forest

Josephine Sculpture Park

Kentucky Conservation Committee

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

Kentucky Resources Council

Louisville Nature Center

Kentucky Nature Preserves
Raptor Rehab
Sunnyside Master Garden
The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky
The Parklands of Floyds Fork
Woods and Waters Land Trust

By-Law Amendment to be Considered at May Meeting

SUMMARY and EXPLANATION:

The Beckham Bird Club Board is proposing to amend the club by-laws to create the new membership category of *Family Contributing Member*. The amendment primarily is intended to address the fact that under the current membership structure, a Contributing Member pays higher annual dues than a Family Member but does not receive equivalent benefits. This seems to be a disincentive to become a Contributing Member. Therefore, the board is proposing the new category of membership, which will enable members who wish to include their household in the membership AND to make an added contribution to do so by choosing to become *Family Contributing Members*. It will add Section G to Article III.

In addition the proposed amendment also clarifies the by-laws by:

- replacing some archaic language in Section A
- better defining who is eligible for a student membership (Section E) by defining the types of educational institutions that confer eligibility.
- stating that a Life Membership (Section D) grants membership privileges on those in the member's household during the lifetime of the member
- noting that a Life Membership (section D) is non-transferable

If the amendment passes, the board will offer a motion to set the annual dues at \$40 for a Family Contributing Membership.

The proposed by-law amendment motion and proposed new language:

Amend Article III to revise Section A to change and add membership levels and modernize language; revise Sections C, D, E, F to reflect changed title of Contributing Membership and to clarify membership status and qualifications; add Section G to create Family Contributing Membership:

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section A – Any person with an interest in birds and who supports the purposes of this corporation may become a member by paying the prescribed dues. Membership categories shall be Active, Active Contributing, Life, Student, Family, and Family Contributing.

Section B – Active Membership shall consist of those persons who pay Active Membership dues and who desire to cooperate in the work of the corporation and wish to receive its publications.

Section C – Active Contributing Membership shall consist of those persons who pay Active Contributing Membership dues. They shall be accorded the privileges and duties of an Active Member.

Section D – Life Membership shall consist of those persons who pay the Life Membership fee. They shall be accorded the privileges and duties of a Family Member. A Life Membership is non-transferable.

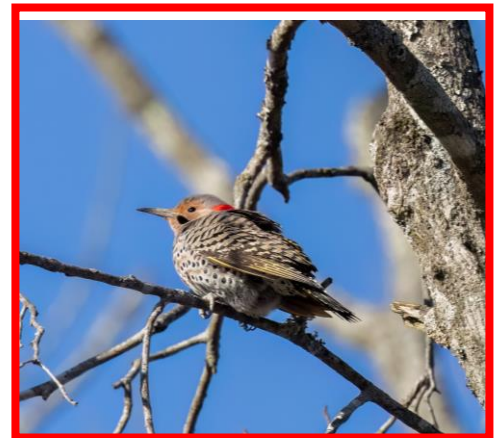
Section E – Student Membership shall include bona fide full-time students of K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. They shall pay the Student Membership dues annually as long as they remain in this classification. They shall be accorded the privileges and duties of an Active Member.

Section F – Family Membership shall include all persons living in the same household as a member who pays Family Membership dues or who is a Life Member.

Section G – Family Contributing Membership shall include all persons living in the same household as a member who pays Family Contributing Membership dues.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Beckley Creek Grand Allee – February 18 -Beckham Bird Club/GBBC- Five hardy birders met to bird at the 16 degrees start of the sunny morning. Temperature slowly climbed into the 30s as the morning progressed, but a brisk wind kept a chill in the air. Birding was slow but steady with the highlights being Rusty Blackbirds, and a red morph Screech Owl sunning from a tree hollow along the Floyds Fork.



Beckley Creek -Grand Allee- February 25 Peent! Peent! Yes, the woodcocks were calling and whirling through the sky with their aerial displays, but, golly, it was hard to see those rascally birds. Twenty-two members listened and looked in the star-studded sky as dusk arrived. Ducks and geese flew overhead. Red-winged blackbirds and Song Sparrows continued to sing their songs well after dark. Three or four Woodcocks were present and so great to hear. Frogs were calling and Harbinger-of-spring was in bloom. Spring is right around the corner. Start looking for early migrants.



Muscatatuck NWR and Hardy Lake - March 3, 2024 - Though a dense fog delayed the trip for an hour the fifteen observers couldn't have asked for a better day. By the end of the trip it was sunny 68 degree day. Sandhill Cranes were flying overhead and calling to us down below! Beautiful Purple Finches were visiting the feeders at the refuge along with many other regular visitors. The first Tree Swallow was seen on a walk to a nearby lake. Many different species of ducks were counted including a Common Goldeneye and a Bufflehead. Pied-billed Grebes and Coots added to our list. Phoebes had returned and the observers found

several Red-headed Woodpeckers. Red-winged Blackbirds were setting up territories. As we prepared to leave the refuge our total number of species was 49. Hardy Lake was a huge disappointment bird-wise. No loons, no grebes and only one species of duck - Bufflehead! Land birds were just as scarce. A nice find was a Northern Harrier enjoying a late lunch as we neared the Lake. We did tally 16 species there. It was a fun day with some great birds and wonderful birders. Come join us next time.

Pope Lick Park – March 10 Six members and guests met on a cold and sunny late winter morning. The birds were active, with Pileated Woodpeckers calling in the woods, Field Sparrows trilling, and a very cooperative Fox Sparrow that gave us nice looks after chipping loudly in the brush beside the trail. A wonderful morning to be out!

Beckley Creek Grand Allee – March 13 Twenty-five birders from the Beckham Bird Club gathered on Wednesday morning at Beckley Creek Park. It started out cool at about 43 degrees, but quickly rose into the 60's. We were hosting our guest speaker from the previous evening's dinner meeting, David Lindo, aka. The Urban Birder.

We had a nice variety of birds totaling 38 species. Many Red-winged Blackbirds singing as well as a Brown Thrasher. We were excited to see Red-headed Woodpeckers and Wilson's Snipe! Though our raptors started out slow, we finished the day with eight raptor species being seen, including two Bald Eagles!

It was a wonderful spring morning to get together with friends to explore the birds!

Beckley Creek Grand Allee – March 16 Seventeen birders turned out on a pleasantly cool and very foggy morning that made finding birds a challenge for the first hour or so. A search for the recent Short-eared Owl proved futile, but the efforts to find it flushed several Wilson's Snipe and a single American Woodcock. There was much singing going on, with Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows and American Robins providing most of the background noise. The highlights of the morning were no fewer than three - possibly four - Fox Sparrows, including one male who sat out in the open and sang for at least a minute or two. An unusual sight. Raptors made a late appearance. Despite missing on some fairly common birds, the morning yielded a total of 39 species and ended warm and sunny, leaving everyone happy.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

The club had a great turnout for this year's annual March dinner meeting. There were 97 reservations for dinner and 30 members signed up for the field trip the next day.

David Lindo gave a great talk about birding in Spain but most of the group were astounded by his description of Long-eared Owls that were present in Serbia. If you don't see a member, he or she may be on their way to Serbia.

The club wishes to express a **BIG Thank You** to our members who make the March Dinner Meeting possible – Carol Besse, who arranged for our speaker, Jane Bell, who has organized the dinner at Big Spring CC for many years, Karen Bonsell for leading the field trip, Pam Spaulding and her group of telephone callers who called members to remind them of the dinner meeting and Steve Brown for his work on the BBC Directory.

Volunteers Needed!

Have you been wanting to get more involved with the Beckham Bird Club? Are you worried the commitment may take too much of your free (birding!) time? Not to worry - we have the solution! We currently have several committee chair vacancies that we need to fill. These are activities that are only once each year, so not a huge time commitment. We also have detailed descriptions of each position as well as the notes of the retiring chairs, so you will have plenty of support.

Current Vacancies:

1. Annual Dinner Meeting Chair
2. Breakfast with the Birds Chair

We also need volunteers to staff a BBC table at Broad Run Park on Friday, April 19, 2024, as part of their Earth Day Celebration. The event hours are 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. You do not need to sign up for the whole time - an hour will be helpful. The more people that sign up, the less time you will have to spend staffing the table.

If you are interested, please email the club at beckhambirdclub@gmail.com.

Spring Migration is starting. Join one of our field trips.

